

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

- - - : - - -

P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 18, 1973

10:00 o'clock a.m.

JERRY G. JONES, CHAIRMAN

Wild Life and Fisheries  
Building  
400 Royal Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana

P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was held on Tuesday, December 18, 1973, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Jerry G. Jones, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT WERE:

JERRY G. JONES, Chairman

LLOYD J. AUTIN, Vice-Chairman

DOYLE G. BERRY, Member

MARC DUPUY, JR., Member

H. CLAY LUTTRELL, Member

JIMMIE THOMPSON, Member

DONALD F. WILLE, Member

A G E N D A

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT

1. Discussion of increased royalty on fill material. (10)
2. Request for permit to remove fill material from the (13)  
Mississippi River at Mile 121.2 AHP near Destrehan,  
St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, by F & S Equipment  
Company, Inc.

3. Request for permit to dredge for fill material from the (14)  
Mississippi River in vicinity of Myrtle Grove Plantation,  
Chalmette, Louisiana, by Mr. Lewis Johnson, F.M.M. and  
Sand Company, Inc.
4. Request from Atlas Construction Company, Inc., for permit (15)  
to remove fill material from the Mississippi River at  
Mile 50 to Mile 51 AHP, vicinity of Woodland, Plaquemines  
Parish.
5. Request from Atlas Construction Company, Inc., for permit (16)  
to remove fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile  
18 AHP, vicinity of Fort Jackson, Plaquemines Parish.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY

6. Request from the State Mineral Board for approval to let (4)  
two seismograph permits on Marsh Island.
7. Approval of Marsh Island mineral regulations. (6)

MR. JOE HERRING

8. Police Jury deer season request from St. Mary Parish and (17)  
discussion of deer season in Madison, Tensas and Concordia  
Parishes.

OTHER BUSINESS:

9. Meeting in Governor's Office at 2:00 p.m. for purchase of (4)  
additional land joining Pearl River Wild Life Management  
Area.

- 10. Discussion of license fees. (23)
- 11. Resignation of Chairman, Mr. Jerry G. Jones. (27)
- 12. Election of Chairman. (29)
- 13. Policies adopted by the Board (31)

- - - - -

CHAIRMAN JERRY G. JONES: The meeting will come to order.

I'm sorry we are a little late, but Mr. Yancey, Mr. Angelle and I were down at the Constitutional Convention. They were discussing the natural resources provisions and Mr. Angelle remained there. He won't be with us today.

First, we will look at Item No. 9. We'll take it first. We have a meeting scheduled this afternoon in the Governor's Office at 2:00 p.m. for the purchase of the additional land at Pearl River and we are going to have the execution of the deed and I want to remind all of you of that meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Dr. St. Amant. Dr. St. Amant, or Harry Schafer.

FROM THE AUDIENCE: He has been delayed 45 minutes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let's go ahead with Item No. 6 then. Mr. Yancey.

MR. RICHARD K. YANCEY: This Item No. 6 and 7 relate to mineral operations on the Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge. We have a proposal on the consideration of two seismograph permits on Marsh Island each totaling about 30,000 acres. These seismograph permits would be advertised for bid by the State Mineral

Board and the permits would be given to the high bidders. The high bidder and recipient of the seismograph permit would then have the option of nominating three 25,000 acre tracts for sale by the Mineral Board at a future lease sale and we would like to recommend that the Commission adopt a resolution concurring in the sale of these two seismograph permits through the State Mineral Board.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. CLAY LUTTRELL: I so move.

MR. MARC DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Luttrell and seconded by Mr. Dupuy. Is there any discussion? Any objections?

(No response) Hearing none, so ordered.

(Full text of the resolution is  
here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has been informed by the State Mineral Board that an interest has been expressed to conduct geophysical operations on unleased acreage at Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge, and

WHEREAS, it has been proposed that the geophysical operation be divided into two separate tracts to be offered on a competitive bid basis to the high bidder, and

WHEREAS, the successful bidder upon conclusion of the geophysical operation shall have the option of nominating three 2500 acre tracts for competitive bidding on each area,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby concur with the advertisement for bid on two geophysical areas at Marsh Island, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certain changes in the existing rules and regulations governing drilling and production operations be incorporated so that the successful bidder can be made aware. These changes will be as follows: Under Heading B, drilling and production operations, a new sentence be inserted after the first sentence of paragraph one, which will read as follows: "Roads may be required in some areas." In the twelfth line of the same paragraph after the word "canals" and before the word "pipe" insert the word "roads."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be authorized to sign all documents pertaining to this matter.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: In connection with this same matter, rules and regulations should be incorporated in the seismograph permits that would be issued and also in the mineral leases that would be issued within the next few months that would

protect the marshland from any fish and wildlife damages and we would recommend to the Board that the same regulations be used in these leases that have been used in past mineral operations with one amendment and this would simply state that "roads may be required in some areas on the island." For example, we have an 8,000 acre impoundment on the island and certainly if any drilling would be intended within that area we want the companies to build a road into the drilling site. We would like to have that in the regulations so that they would understand when they bid that they may be faced with that problem. Now, there have been roads built into the impoundment before by oil companies so we don't feel that imposes any insurmountable problems and these regulations are about three pages long. We certainly don't intend to read them to you but we did want to apprise you of this one proposed change.

THE CHAIRMAN: Marc, you might be familiar with it. What is the new provision the State has in the new state leases to adjust for increases in the market value of oil and gas? Are you familiar with it?

MR. MARC DUPUY: Well, they do provide for an increase in the prices when the market price in the area goes up. We are not talking about severance tax; we are talking about royalty?

THE CHAIRMAN: Royalty.

MR. MARC DUPUY: I'm not familiar with the most currently revised edition of mineral lease forms. I really don't know.

THE CHAIRMAN: It's a matter for the Mineral Board's decision but I sure would like for this Commission to make a recommendation to them that some type of escalation clause be included where the market value of royalties as they increase would apply to our 1/5 per cent or whatever percentage we get and we not be tied to some long-termed pipeline contract as we are presently. It could mean a big difference in the revenues we get. We could probably do that in the form of a letter to the Mineral Board.

MR. MARC DUPUY: Are you sure that the revenue from the seismic permits would go into the Marsh Island Conservation Fund?

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: The revenue from the permits and also the leases would be divided into two equal parts. Half the revenue would go to the Russell Sage Foundation and, of course, this is a foundation that gave this land to the state in 1920 and the other half of the revenue would go into the Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge account and the use of that money would first go to satisfy the needs of fish and wildlife management on Marsh Island and any surplus that may be left over would be divided into two equal parts with one part going into the Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge Trust Fund and the other part could then be used for other wildlife projects in Louisiana, such as, land



acquisition for wildlife management area purposes. We have used that Marsh Island money for that purpose in the past and this would be the use of the revenue.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Should that be put in the form of a motion?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, or we could just ask them to write a letter to the Mineral Board. I would like to see in our minutes that we are asking the Mineral Board to protect our interests as the price of oil and gas increases in the future in any new state leases.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: If you put it in the form of a motion, then I'll second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: OK. I so move. Is there a second? Jimmie Thompson seconds it. Is there any further discussion? (No response) Any objection? (No response) Hearing none, so ordered.

You have heard the recommendation of Mr. Yancey. Do I hear a motion.

MR. MARC DUPUY: I so move.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Dupuy.

MR. LLOYD AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been seconded by Mr. Autin. Is there any further discussion? (No response) Any objection? (No response) Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. RICHARD YANCEY: Thirdly, periodically it is necessary that members of this Commission meet with members of the Mineral Board to discuss fish and wildlife matters as they relate to mineral operations around the State and we would like to recommend that about a three-man committee of this Commission be appointed to meet periodically with a liasion committee from the Mineral Board to resolve various matters that come up from time to time.

THE CHAIRMAN: OK. Be I possessed with the authority to do it, I'm going to appoint Mr. Dupuy, Mr. Thompson, and as the Frenchmen say, "I'm going to appoint me." When we do meet with the Mineral Board, the whole Commission is invited to attend the meetings. We don't have many of them but the three that will be responsible will be Jimmy, Marc and I. Marc, you are the chairman of this committee. You have had great experience with the Mineral Board.

Harry.

MR. HARRY SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board, as you requested we have done a study on the price of fill in the last fifteen years and we have gotten information from the Department of Public Works and the Louisiana Highway Commission plus private contractors and they have informed us that the prices have gone up from 50 to 100 per cent and in most cases, 100 per cent. The Wild Life and Fisheries Commission handles

sand, gravel and fill material under our Revised Statutes and it's duly published in our regulations calling for  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ a cubic yard from these permits. Since the price has gone up 100 per cent, we would recommend that the Commission increase the royalty that the Commission gets on the fill material up to 5¢ from the  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ to 5¢ per cubic yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are we talking about existing permits and future permits?

MR. HARRY SCHAFER: Some of the newer permits, we have a clause written in there that the Commission could raise those 30 days after if this recommendation is passed. I think Peter Duffy has researched some of the old permits, some of the 5 year permits and he is of the opinion that some of those could be raised after the passage of this new regulation.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: How much are we now getting?

MR. HARRY SCHAFER: We are now getting-- I don't have that information.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: Do you have any idea of ball park figures.

HARRY SCHAFER: No. I sure don't, Doyle.

THE CHAIRMAN: Larry Cook is not here.

MR. HARRY SCHAFER: I would recommend that the Commission raise these royalties from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 5¢ a cubic yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: This is on sand and fill?

MR. HARRY SCHAFFER: This is on sand and fill material.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: I so move.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Just one minute. You had better define that and say "where applicable" so that you can take in the full scope of the--

MR. HARRY SCHAFFER: Peter, have you drafted the resolution that we have?

MR. PETER DUFFY, ATTORNEY: (not audible)

MR. JIMMY THOMPSON: What I am trying to say to Peter is--Are we encompassing leases from this period on or are we going back where it is applicable to increase it--this 30 day deal.

MR. PETER DUFFY: (not audible)

MR. JIMMY THOMPSON: Well, I would like to amend that motion and say "where applicable."

THE CHAIRMAN: The amended motion would provide that we raise the royalties from 2½ cents to 5 cents on all present and future leases where applicable and permissible.

Is there a second to that?

MR. CLAY LUTTRELL: I second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Luttrell. Is there any discussion? (No response) Is there any objection? (No response) Hearing none, so ordered.

(Full text of the resolution is  
here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the royalty charged on the taking of fill material has remained at 2½¢ per cubic yard for the past 16 years, and

WHEREAS, a study indicates that the cost of fill material on contracts has increased from 50% to 100% during this period, and

WHEREAS, inflationary conditions have increased the cost to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission for servicing and auditing all dredging operations, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has the authority and a precedent to increase royalties if it is necessary, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, effective January 1, 1974, royalty from fill materials is increased from 2½¢ to 5¢ per cubic yard. This increase applies to all new permits granted subsequent to that date and to all interim permits which contain clauses giving the Commission the right to increase royalty upon a notice of thirty days.

MR. HARRY SCHAFER: The second item we have is the request from the F & S Equipment Company for a permit to remove fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 121.2 in St. Charles Parish.

We have examined this permit and it meets our requirements of the Commission and I would recommend that it be granted.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. DONALD WILLE: I'll make a motion.

MR. DOYLE BERRY. Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Wille and seconded by Mr. Berry. Is there any objection? (No response) Hearing none, so ordered.

(Full text of the resolution is  
here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to F & S Equipment Co., Inc., to remove fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 121.2 AHP, for a period of one year only from December 18, 1973.

MR. HARRY SCHAFER: The next item is a request from the F.M.M. and Sand Company to remove fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of the Myrtle Grove Plantation. We have checked this permit and we find it meets the requirements of the Commission and we recommend that it be granted.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. DOYLE BERRY: I so move.

MR. CLAY LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry; seconded by Mr. Luttrell. Is there any discussion? (No response) Any objection? (No response) Hearing none, so ordered.

(Full text of the resolution is  
here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to F.M.M. Sand Company, Inc., Lewis E. Johnson, Owner, to remove fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Myrtle Grove Plantation, Chalmette, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from December 18, 1973.

MR. HARRY SCHAFER: The next item is a request from the Atlas Construction Company for a permit to remove fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 50 to Mile 51 in the vicinity of Woodland in Plaquemines Parish. We have examined this request and we find that they meet all the requirements of the Commission and we recommend that it be granted.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is your pleasure?

MR. CLAY LUTTRELL: I so move.

MR. DONALD WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Luttrell; seconded by Mr. Wille. Is there any discussion? (No response) Any objection? (No response) Hearing none, so ordered.

(Full text of the resolution is  
here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to dredge fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 50 to Mile 51 AHP, vicinity of Woodland, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, to Atlas Construction Company, Inc., for a period of one year only from December 18, 1973.

MR. HARRY SCHAFER: The last request we have is from Atlas Construction Company again for removing fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 18 in the vicinity of Fort Jackson in Plaquemines Parish. We have examined this and find that it meets all the requirements of the Commission and I would recommend that it be granted.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: I so move.

MR. LLOYD AUTIN: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry; seconded by Mr. Autin. Is there any further discussion? (No response) Any



objection? (No response) Hearing none, so ordered.

(Full text of the resolution is  
here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to Atlas Construction Company, Inc., to dredge fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 18 AHP, vicinity of Fort Jackson, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year only.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Herring.

MR. JOE HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first item we have is due to the high water along the Mississippi River. We have had several requests to close the proposed doe season in Madison, Tensas and Concordia Parishes, December 26th to 30th. We have had our field personnel to check this out and they have also recommended this so we recommend that the doe season be closed from the main channel of the Mississippi River near the main guide levee to the Mississippi River in Madison and Tensas Parishes and all of Concordia Parish.

THE CHAIRMAN: Joe, would the reason for this be due to the high water situation.

MR. JOE HERRING: Well, I thought I said that at first, I'm sorry. Mr. Chairman, I said due to the high water along the Mississippi River and we do not know what stages it will come at

this time. The deer are bunching on these islands and we are afraid that some things could happen should the wrong people get into these areas and also the locks on Cocodrie Bayou have also been closed in Concordia Parish. From the closure of these locks, we have water rising inside the parishes and run the deer out that way and water rising in the Mississippi River is pushing them back toward the inland part. We would recommend all of Concordia Parish but only the--

MR. MARC DUPUY: With regard to Tensas Parish, the portions of the parish which are geographically located east of the Mississippi River, you are not going to include in this--

MR. JOE HERRING: That's right, Mr. Chairman. That would be on this little map, the white areas on the east side of the Mississippi River there. They would remain open because they are the high lands in Mississippi there. It would be the recommendation is from the center of the main guide levee to the Mississippi River, so any land Louisiana has east of the Mississippi River would remain as the season is presently set up.

THE CHAIRMAN: Joe, if we did do this, you think we would kill more than a third of the deer.

MR. JOE HERRING: It's kind of hard to say on the doe because a lot of the clubs probably would not kill doe to start with so it would be hard to say what they would kill, really.

THE CHAIRMAN: I'm just giving you back something. I've heard you say for years we want to kill a third of them every year.

MR. JOE HERRING: Well, the thing is the water might get some of them.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion?

MR. MARC DUPUY: I so move.

MR. DONALD WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Dupuy; seconded by Mr. Wille. Any objection? (No response) Hearing none, so ordered.

(Full text of the resolution is  
here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River has been on a rise and this rise has pushed deer to high ground on the levee side, and

WHEREAS, a five day doe season has been set in Madison, Tensas and Concordia Parishes, and

WHEREAS, this could cause harm to the deer herds in this area, and

WHEREAS, our staff biologists have checked the deer herds along the Mississippi River, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the five day doe

season, December 26-30, 1973, be cancelled in that area East of the center line of the main guide levee and include Madison and Tensas Parish lands to the Mississippi River and all of the Concordia Parish. Louisiana lands lying east of the Mississippi River will remain open.

MR. JOE HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next item we have on the agenda is we received a request from the St. Mary Parish Police Jury to extend the deer season in that Parish to January 13, 1974, or an extension of 10 days to make St. Mary Parish which is in Area 10, now puts that Parish in Area 1. Our field personnel have checked all of St. Mary Parish, you might say, and they have made the recommendation that we could open that part of the Parish which is north of the Intracoastal Canal to be extended another 10 days. That would be from January 3 to January 13, 1974. However, that land south of the Intracoastal Canal we would not recommend an extension because deer herds are lower in that area. We would recommend along with their request, that is part of the parish would be north of the Intracoastal Canal be open for an extended 10 days.

THE CHAIRMAN: Everybody is happy with the rabbit season?

MR. JOE HERRING: No comment.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. MARC DUPUY: I so move.

MR. DONALD WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Dupuy; seconded by Mr. Wille. Is there any further discussion? (No response) Any objection? (No response) Hearing none, so ordered.

(Full text of the resolution is  
here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, a request from the St. Mary Parish Police Jury for an increase in days of deer hunting during the second portion of the deer season has been received, and

WHEREAS, our staff biologists have checked this area and recommend that a 10-day extension be granted in that area north of the Intracoastal Canal, and now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the deer season in St. Mary Parish, Area 10 north of the Intracoastal Canal be extended from January 3 to 13, 1974.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Joe.

MR. JOE HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, while Joe is still at the microphone I would like to make a motion contingency, you might say, empower in our Director to close the deer season upon his judgement in the Rapides Parish area district in the event of high water which could possibly cause a situation realizing full

well that automatically any deer driven to high ground by high water are automatically closed but who knows which deer came where so I would like to empower the Director in the event that we did have this catastrophe of high water that he be empowered at this time to close that season. The whole district, so that he can close any part which would be subject to high water. At the present time all of the low lands are already flooded. I understand that the Mississippi is supposed to crest today and probably we will get some relief. This is just a precautionary measure.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion by Mr. Thompson. Is there a second?

MR. CLAY LUTTRELL: I'll second the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Luttrell. Is there any further discussion?

MR. MARC DUPUY: Yes. Since the same reason would apply to other areas, is there any particular reason why you would want to restrict it to the Rapides area.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: No. I'm just familiar with the Rapides area.

MR. MARC DUPUY: We thought the whole state, anywhere there was flooding conditions that would require such action we might had better have the director do what is necessary.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: We have already voted on this. Why don't you have a subsequent motion then to encompass this.

THE CHAIRMAN: I don't think we have voted yet. Will you accept an amendment to it to encompass the state?

MR. MARC DUPUY: I'll amend it then to empower the director to do whatever is necessary wherever in this state.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the amended motion. Is there any further discussion? (No response) Is there any objection? (No response) Hearing none, so ordered.

I have a little statement I want to read to you and it reflects on some work that the Commission is going to undertake.

"On behalf of the Commission and its director, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that the Commission is presently conducting an in depth study of the structural sources of revenue with the intention of introducing legislation in the next regular session of the legislature in May to assure that the present programs of research, land acquisition, law enforcement, wildlife management, noxious weed control and other programs will be properly funded in the years ahead. I feel certain that many sportsmen and conservation groups are aware of the fact that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is operated on self-generated funds

and does not rely on tax dollars to support the many programs that protect, preserve and perpetuate our wildlife and fisheries resources. These funds are generated from the sale of licenses, severance on clam and oyster shells and a great part on royalties from minerals taken from our refuges and the Pass-A-Loutre Public Shooting Grounds. Certainly, everyone in this room realizes that the Commission's royalties from minerals; basically, oil and gas, have provided a great part of these self-generating funds. I feel that we are equally aware that those are non-renewable resources. On the other hand, our heritage of wildlife resources, including fisheries, are renewable resources and proper stewardship by the Commission is something that the sportsmen of Louisiana, our commercial fisheries and fur industry and the citizens of Louisiana want to see preserved and enhanced. For the past several years the Commission has seen those mineral revenues dwindling. Each passing year will find those particular revenues smaller and eventually this source of income will play only a small role in the operation and expanded activities of the Commission. In order to prepare for the future this in depth study will include a close scrutiny of our license income. Initial examination has shown that Louisiana's license fees are the lowest in the 50 states. This fact may come as a shock to some but it is a matter of record.



Our hunting and fishing licenses, for example, are the lowest in the United States and we are the one state that does not have a universal fishing license. This alone deprives hundreds of thousands of dollars annually from Dingall-Johnson funds that are prorated back to the states predicated upon the number of fishing licenses sold. Our basic hunting and fishing licenses along with the big game licenses are also the lowest in the country in this state that rightfully is a sportsman's paradise. We plan to study this license structure carefully and make recommendations to the Legislature that will insure the outdoor recreation that our citizens want perpetuated for future generations. The Commission has been concerned about the dwindling oil and gas revenues for several years. The present energy crisis will certainly accelerate the exploration and production of existing reserves in our refuges and at Pass-A-Loutre. To be more specific, our license structure in Louisiana is below that of the neighboring states of Texas, Arkansas, Alabama and Mississippi. This is something that should be immediately evaluated and geared to offset declining royalties and still let Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission be managed on self-generated funds. At the same time we are studying the license structure, we must also carefully examine the laws relative to fisheries and wildlife. There are changes that

should be made in some of the existing and sometimes conflicting regulations and laws. This will be done carefully but in time for the Commission to be prepared for presenting long range benefits to the Legislature when it convenes in the spring. As soon as these studies have been completed and recommendations have been formulated these will be presented fully to the public. I can assure you that the Commission will draw a plan that will be of lasting service to the people of Louisiana. When they have been formulated and everyone has had an opportunity to evaluate the benefits that will accrue in future years, it is our hope and trust that we will have full support from the sportsmen, our commercial industries hinged to wildlife resources, the administration and the legislature. There is no doubt in the minds of the men who serve upon this Commission, on the part of its Director and staff that we must plan for the future now. As custodians of wildlife and fisheries resources we must not allow crises to develop in our affairs as they have in national and international affairs. With your suggestions, your understanding of the problem which will eventually face the Commission and your backing we can assure a smooth progressive future."

A moment ago when we were considering raising the royalty

I had Pie to-- so we could have an idea of how much money we were talking about. This is on severance tax. In 1972-73 we received \$183,433.20 from fill material as our royalties so if we can increase it by 50 per cent, by 100 per cent, we can bring in an additional \$180,000 revenue.

Mr. Lennox.

MR. ED LENNOX: (Not audible)

THE CHAIRMAN: And, it excludes shell. We haven't raised shell yet. Do you understand that? I notice your presence. (laughter)

MR. ED LENNOX: I'm one of your more faithful--

THE CHAIRMAN: I realize that especially when we talk about shell. \$183,433.20 per year and, of course, incidentally from shell, we receive \$1,001,246.22 but this would mean that we would have additional money.

I have one other item which is not on the agenda. I've served as Chairman of the Commission for a long time. In fact, too long. Last year I told the Members of the Commission that I didn't want to serve again and they put it on my back. Well, I told them this year that it was the end and I am not going to serve any longer. It's time that they elect somebody else to the office of the Commission because I don't think a person ought to sit around in that office for that long and, accordingly, I have told them today that I want them to elect somebody else. Before they do that I want to tell you, Members of the Commission,

I've enjoyed serving as presiding officer. It hasn't been a tough job because you have cooperated and we received the cooperation of the staff. In the last few years that we have worked together I think we have accomplished a lot because we have worked together. I think we have seen that we haven't allowed personal differences if we have had any to interfere with the work that we have attempted to do. At least I hope I haven't and I haven't observed any of you and I know that we are going to continue that. Let me say that I appreciate the cooperation that you have given to me and to the Vice Chairman of the Commission and I have appreciated it. It has made my job a lot easier and I pledge myself to do the same thing to the man that we elect to serve as Chairman for the coming year. You have nomination for the office of Chairman beginning with, I guess, January 1st.

MR. DOYLE BERRY: First, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that I could spend two hours filling this room full of smoke on the good job you have done in the last years you have served as our Chairman. I think you have been an excellent Chairman and really to prolong this thing and embarrass you, just let me say we all think you have done a hell of a good job. Thank you, sir.

(applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: Now we have got that over with. (laughter) Let's get on with the business. Do I hear a nomination or something from you?

MR. MARC DUPUY: If Mr. Luttrell would be so inclined, I would like to ask that he accept the chairmanship. I think he is dedicated and he has demonstrated a genuine interest and we need that kind of interest and concern and if he will accept.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do I hear any other nominations?

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: I would like to second that motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: OK. It has been moved by Mr. Dupuy; seconded by Mr. Thompson that we elect Mr. H. Clay Luttrell as Chairman of the Commission.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that the nominations cease.

THE CHAIRMAN: OK. It has been moved and seconded that nominations cease. All those in favor of Mr. Clay Luttrell as Chairman, would you say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no. (No response) So ordered.

MR. CLAY LUTTRELL: Mr. Chairman, the only thing that I want to add is that the office be effective at the next meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN: When do you say make it official? The first of January. OK.

THE CHAIRMAN: You don't have the opportunity to say whether you accept it or not. I'm going to recognize you because you are going to accept.

MR. CLAY LUTTRELL: I'd like to make a statement.

THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

MR. CLAY LUTTRELL: Here sometime back, Jerry made the statement to me that he thought we should elect somebody and I said no. A new person. I still think, reiterating what Doyle Berry and Mr. Thompson had said, Jerry is the ideal man for that but on the other hand, I say this, while I would take this thing with the utmost caution and it actually scares you, I don't think we, as Board Members, would be negligent in our duty if we refuse to act in accordance with the wishes of the Board and for that reason I have no choice except that I would prefer Jerry personally. Now, Mr. Chairman, if that is over with I have something I would like to bring before the Board.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have to elect a Vice Chairman. Mr. Lloyd Autin is presently serving as Vice Chairman. What is your pleasure?

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I move that he remain.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Is there a second to that.

MR. CLAY LUTTRELL: I'll second that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other nomination? Hearing none, the

motion is that we re-elect Mr. Autin as Vice Chairman. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: All opposed, no. (No response)

According to the constitution, we don't have any say-so about the Secretary, he stays, and that is Mr. Angelle. Not that we wouldn't want him to stay.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have something else. Go ahead.

MR. CLAY LUTTRELL: If we are through with that business, I have something that I thought might be of benefit to the Board and I would like to propose it for the consideration of the Board. From time to time it has been necessary for us to try to determine Board Policy and then it is always a search to go back and so last night I thought about this and I would like to move for the consideration of the Board that its Commission ask the Director to have his office staff compile from the Commission minutes for the past six years all policies adopted by the Board so that the Board may review policies that are pertinent and rescind policies that are no longer operative. Also, that the Director, the Assistant Directors and the Chiefs include in this rough draft policy of long standing that is still operative and is necessary to the function of the Commission. Also, that this rough draft be mailed to the Board Members for their study as soon as possible. Also, that future policy be mailed to Board

Members so that they may keep a current record of Board policy.

I would like for you to--

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion. Is there a second?

MR. DONALD WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Wille. Is there any discussion?

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Question. The thought just occurred to me. Why did you limit it to six years? Did you catch that in the general old policies or because of the in depth?

MR. CLAY LUTTRELL: It is because it would be such a tremendous job to go back from the days when we had a one-man function here but to protect us against that I said the second part. Let's read it again. "Also, the Director and the Assistant Directors and the Chiefs include in this rough draft." Of course, this would not be the final draft, it would be a rough draft, any policy of long standing that was still necessary to the proper functioning of the Commission, you see. Now, if you want to change that it suits me fine.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Clay, I've told her that this morning when you were discussing this and I got sidetracked. I meant to ask you then. This is just a matter of clarifying. I understand perfectly.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion?

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: Question.



THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, say no. (No response) Motion carried.

All right. Is there any further business?

THE CHAIRMAN: I just want to remind you again for the benefit of those of you in the audience who would be interested that the Constitutional Convention is today considering the natural resources article. For your information the article on the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission as proposed by the Natural Resources Committee maintains in essence the present constitutional statutes of the Commission with the exception that the functions and compensation, I believe, will be allowed to be set by the Legislature, if I am not correct, but it will make it unlawful for any member to stay more than six years, which means that when they adopt it, I get off of here. I just want to tell you they are considering it today.

MR. JIMMIE THOMPSON: I join you.

THE CHAIRMAN: And, Jimmy, you go with me. It's a good way to get out, kick me out.

Any other business to come before the Commission?

(No response)

MR. DOYLE BERRY: I move that we adjourn.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved that we adjourn.

. . . . Thereupon, at 11:25 o'clock a.m.,  
Tuesday, December 18, 1973, the regular monthly  
Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and  
Fisheries Commission was adjourned . . . .